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## Newsletter - 1969-05-15

E. De la Garza

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FROM: Kika de la Garza

WASHINGTON, D. C.--A number of South Texans have written me from time to time to protest smut mail sent to them and to their children. This mail is unsolicited, unwanted, and deeply offensive to those who receive it. I am informed that during the last five years the number of complaints to the Post Office about this kind of salacious mail has almost doubled. Those who send out the mass mailings are in the business of peddling smutty publications, pictures, films and other material. They are motivated solely by greed.

In an effort to protect our young people from this kind of thing, on the first day of this session of Congress I introduced a bill making it a criminal offense for anyone to mail obscene mail to any person under 19 years of age or who is enrolled at any public or private elementary school. Similar legislation has now been requested by President Nixon in a special message to Congress. The President also asked for legislation to prohibit sending anyone, regardless of age, advertising designed to appeal to a prurient interest in sex and to provide added protection from such advertising now being mailed, unsolicited, into so many homes. I hope we can get effective action against the smut peddlers in this session.

\* \* \* \* \*

ELECTORAL COLLEGE--Another bill I introduced at the start of the session would change the system by which our President and Vice President are elected. My bill calls for abolition of the electoral college and direct voting for President and Vice President. The House Judiciary Committee has reported favorably on a measure that incorporates some, but not all, of the features of my bill. The committee bill proposes a constitutional amendment providing for direct popular election of the President and Vice President, but does not contain the provision in my bill that the candidates shall be credited in each state with the same proportion of the electoral vote that they received of the popular vote. This means that the present "winner take all" system would be continued, with a presidential candidate receiving a plurality in any state getting all of that state's electoral vote. I prefer my plan, since it makes every individual's vote count for something.

Electoral college reform is important and necessary. However, it cannot be accomplished overnight. The proposed constitutional amendment requires two-thirds approval by both the House and Senate, after which 38 of the 50 state legislatures would have to approve the amendment.

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